Depot Town Rag

Volume 19, Number 2 *"All the news in one block in one month."*

February 1996

100% FREE Rag Content

- Topiary
- Artrain

Ye Olde Freighthouse

- Auto's 100th celebrated here

and other strictly local stuff . . .

A Publication of the DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION, INC. P.O. Box 970-235, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197-0804

Come the Millenium, we'll be ready for it

PREVIEW

This is that time of century when folks start worrying about when the new century begins. Only the uninformed would suppose that a decade began in the 0-year and not the 1-year, but hotels around the world are preparing for celebrations on New Year's in 2000 *and* 2001 just to take full advantage of those dolts.

Down in Depot Town, we've been counting the years since Godfroy's Trading Post and we've been hanging calendars on the wall since the railroad came through, so the year Two Thousand and One doesn't look quite so formidable. That's why we're so excited about this new year - 1996 - with *five* years left in the century.

In a district so enamored of the Nineteenth century, the passing of the Twenty-First seems almost anticlimactic. Will anyone in the future have as much fun with the 1900's? Some say the (Nineteen) Sixties was the decade of love; the Seventies the decade of sex; the Eighties of money. They concluded the Nineties was the decade of *worrying* about sex, love, and money. Could be.

The new year at a glance from our promotional point of view:

January
Rag renaissance; newsletter is reborn

February
Pub crawls, Valentine windows, snow shoveling, planning summer events

March
St. Patrick's Day Parade

April
Sidewalk cafés open

May
Ypsi PRIDE: Planting, painting, and digging.
Street Rod Show in Riverside Park,

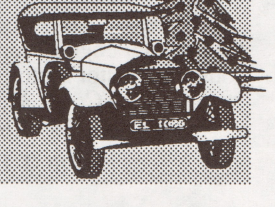
June
Frog Island Festival
Historical car convoy arrives

July
Fourth of July Parade

August
Ypsilanti Heritage Festival
Artrain returns

September
Annual DTA meeting and election
Historical car convoy back for more

October
Fall Fair,
Halloween Party



November
Festival of Lights

December
Victorian Holiday,
New Year's Jubilee

Newest brochure need merhcants' proofs

The last printed brochure hyping this block has been out of print and out of circulation for nearly three years, now, and a new one is ready to fill the gap. Local artist, Carolyn McKeever, has prepared new copy and art for this version and DTA president, David French, will be taking the proof copy to all merhants for final approval of the content, hours, and other facts. DTA officals hope this action will put the long-awaited promotion in place.

25,000 copies of previous brochures were distributed through the former Radisson Hotel, the Ypsilanti Area Visitor & Convention Bureau, and Depot Town businsess' own mailing and distribution system.

The *underground* could have been us!

Elevated thoughts

Ypsilanti is not Chicago, and this paper is not the Chicago *Tribune*. Neither is the Huron River the Chicago River, nor is our editor Mike Royko. Still, if Ypsi had followed some 'good advice' back in 1913, we might have seen Whitey's Bar among our railroad saloons down here.

Whitey's Bar is on the lower level of the Michigan Avenue bridge in the Chicago Loop area, just a few feet above the surface of the Chicago River - a river which can flow to *or from* Lake Michigan, depending on the force of the effluent forced from the sewage pipes of the Windy City. Whitey is probably not his real name, but he is the whitest person we had ever seen when we ventured into his subterranean chambers back in the '50s. He probably wasn't an albino - he wasn't pink enough. Whitey looked like he just hadn't been out in the sunshine and fresh air since he first bought his dimly lit grotto several feet beneath the Midwest's famed Golden Mile.

And that could have happened to this district's bar owners, if we had followed the recommendations of the Olmsted Brothers, landscape architects from Brookline, Mass., back when they surveyed and suggested for the City of Ypsilanti in 1913.

In **Part I, The Main Problems and The Methods of Dealing With Them**, they referred to Steam Railroads and Industrial Districts, noting that "the worst crossings are those at River and Cross Streets near the station and at Forest Street, and the most obvious solution is the raising of the railroad tracks. Not only would this avoid the damage to abutting property that would result from raising the streets, but it would have the material advantage from the railroad point of view of lessening the objectionable gradient by which the railroad now descends into the City."

The O'Bros did not suggest whether they would have knocked down those nineteenth century buildings which still stand today, or would have used them for foundations and basements as they did in Chicago. Either way, today's railroad district in Ypsilanti would have been seriously changed from the Depot Town we now know and love.

Had we simply raised the tracks in Ypsi as they had done in Chicago, passengers could have still unloaded into the top towers of the MCRR depot and descended steel steps to the ground level where people and vehicles scurry around like bugs in the dim streets and alleys. Although such an atmosphere might not have fostered our flower gardens and Farmers' Market, jazz certainly could still have flourished in such an atmosphere. Both Chicago and Ypsi are known for their good jams, but it's difficult to imagine the Frog Island Festival, Heritage Festival, and Festival of Lights under the shadow of a sooty steel train trestle.

And, if we had followed their advice, today's Depot Town *Rag* would certainly qualify as an 'underground' newspaper. Maybe Whitey's Bar would sponsor us!

Dateline: Depot Town

A Neighborhood Forgotten by Time (and Life and Newsweek)

Sidetrack's back wall in a topiary state

Even in winter, the mysterious vine formation on the back (south) wall of the Sidetrack Grill carefully delineates the Lower and Upper Peninsulas of the State of Michigan, even being so complete as to show some of the Lake Michigan shoreline in the State of Wisconsin.

Climbing the full three stories of the back of that building, the vine climbs between windows and beneath the painted 'Depot Exchange' sign to show some of the most recognizable and distinctive land masses on planet Earth. Going one better than Richard Guindon's cartoon of nebbish-like citizens of this state showing where they live -- while pointing to the palms of their hands (left hand if you're a Youper!), Sidetrackers only smile when asked if this unusual growth was natural or carefully plotted by someone on their staff. Saginaw Bay appeares to have been trimmed intentionally, but no one is telling.

Watch the leaves appear again this spring, and in a few years we may be able to replicate the entire Western Hemisphere in topiary gardens throughout the district. Such an art form certainly follows the fame of the early gardens at the MCRR depot in Ypsilanti!

Valentine's Day Cooking Encounter

February 10, Saturday, The Ypsilanti Food Co-op will be celebrating Valentine's Day with a chocolate lover's cooking encounter from 11AM to 3PM.

If you want to indulge your Valentine with a decadent chocolate dessert on this special occasion, the Ypsi Food Co-op invites you to sample a low-fat, heart-smart, vegan chocolate cake that will make your Valentine's heart flutter. Recipes will be available for attendees to recreate this marvelous dessert. All ingredients for this extraordinary dessert will be available for sale as well. No reservations are necessary and there is no charge for this event. Just remember to bring your sweet tooth.

The Ypsilanti Food Co-op is at 312 N. River. For more information call 483-1520

Under New Management!

-Judy Andrews

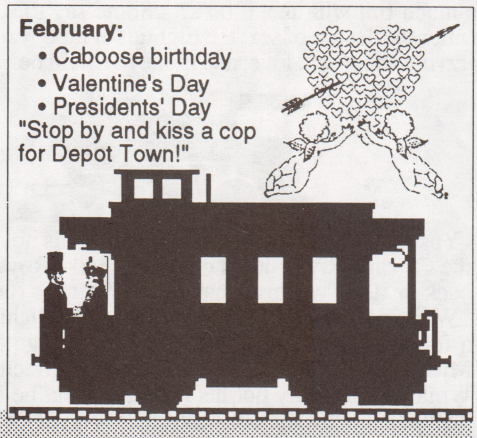
Who is responsible for that great foreign food in the Market/Freighthouse Coffeeshop?

Exotic Bakeries of Ann Arbor, who previously had a shop inside the Market, has now moved into and taken over the Ypsilanti Freighthouse Coffee shop, that's who! Monib Elkhatib (we call him 'Moe') has parlayed the best of the Mid East and Mid West fare, along with his welcoming smile, his personal service, combined with the warmth of the unique woodburing stove and live musicians into just a great place to hang out.

His original Syrian specialities, such as his famous spinach pie, vegetable and Feta cheese round, chicken rolls, hummus (the best!), zucchini babaganouj, and Syrian rice pudding (fabulous!) are still available, along with the standard American fare — subs, hot dogs, pop and chips.

Hey, let's do lunch! He has lunch specials on Wednesdays: Any soup/sandwich and coffee, $4.50. Saves you $1.25 and it's homemade!

Oh, did I tell you about the Falafel sandwiches?



That Beer guy is back

That's not the same plywood beer guy you saw on the sidewalk in front of Cady's Grill in August. That's his cousin, who just happens to look just like him. Maybe they were identical cousins?

The new Beer Guy was reincarnated by Carolyn McKeever last month, not patient enough to see if he would re-appear in the St. Patrick's Day parade like Sidetrack's moose. Still, there's every chance in the world that B.G. would come riding down the hill from the campus and the twins could be re-united.

It could happen!

Open meetings:

Each month this neighborhood features a meeting at 6 P.M. on the third Thursday in which neighbors meet at Renewed Interest Antiques to plan the events and promotions listed in this issue of its publication. If you can't be there, at least decorate your windows, feature the events in your ads and promotions, invite your friends, and buy lots of tickets.

A local glossary:

Regular attenders of local meetings throw around the following acronyms with great abandon and often can confuse and alienate a listener who may wish to be one of 'the insiders.' Commit the following terms to memory, attend just one meeting making plans for the summer's events down here, and you'll soon find your name in the minutes and a cold dinner on the table when you finally get home...

DTA: The Depot Town Assocation, a non-profit, tax-exempt group founded in 1976 for the betterment of the depot district and its businesses.

CBC: The Central Business Community is to Ypsilanti's downtown district what DTA is to Depot Town.

DDA: Depot Town's Downtown Development Authority.

RAC: Riverside Arts Center, in its first year of full-time operation at 76 N. Huron in the former Ypsilanti Masonic Temple.

YPD: Ypsilanti Police Department, which rents the DTA Caboose as a neighborhood mini-station.

YHF: The annual Ypsilanti Heritage Festival will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the automobile down here this August.

DPW: Department of Public Works, the City's do-it-all department, at Forest Ave. & N. Huron.

WEMU: Public Broadcasting's FM radio station (FM 98.1) on the EMU campus

VCB: Ypsilanti Area Visitor & Convention Bureau

EMU: Eastern Michigan University, the large state univeristy up the hill from Depot Town that used to be the Michigan Normal College. Today they even have a department in Depot Town!

MCRR: The Michigan Central Railroad drove its line through Ypsilanti in the 1850s, is now Amtrak and Conrail.

Depot Town Antique Engine Club CLASSIFIEDS

• **For Sale or Trade:** Small Universal Tool & Cutter Grinder. Ideal for small shop. Like new, half of new price.
Paul Brown: 313-697-0380.

• **For Sale:** 4 X 4, two-hole out house. Hand built, new but old looking.
Bill Farnum. 527 Pine,
Wyandotte, MI 48192,
313-284-0306.

• **Wanted:** Small hand crank clamp-on corn-shellers. Also, always looking for unusual horse bits.
Phyllis Kasper, 313-941-4091.

• **For Sale:** Older Ward's gas-powered reel-type lawn mower. $20.
Tom Stockton, 313-662-9894.

• **For Sale:** Have recently acquired a good selection of graphite and teflon steam and pump rod packing. Will sell by the foot or spool. Sizes from 1/8" to 1". Square and round. Call me for your needs. Priced very reasonably.
Larry Massey, 313-981-4973.

• **Wanted:** Air shroud and tank for AAU Continental engine. Air shroud and tank for a Johnson Utilitor motor.
Bob Cook, 313-697-4456.

Artrain's 7th stop here

And a train runs through it

When the Artrain stopped in Ypsilanti in 1976, some folks thought that might make the old run-down buildings by the train station into an Artists' Colony. They turned the old cleaners next to the VFW Hall and the Central Bar into Artrain's office/gallery. When the train left, the Shankwilers renovated the building and moved into it, leaving the 'Artrain' sign on the front facade. Beverly was a sculptor and the artsy image had a foothold at 52 East Cross.

Today, the district is known as Depot Town and is the home to several artists' studios in the upper floors of 25 East Cross, as well. John Pappas' sculpture casting foundry, just across the Huron River, still remains one of the few such facilities outside of Florence, Italy.

Even with all that expertise, the 'colony' never seemed to take hold, thank goodness. Rather than isolate themselves from the other workers of the district, artists have proven to be just as regular as the rest of the world's people who make things, and they have become regular members of this old block.

The August exhibtion in this year's gallery cars, "Art in Celebration! - Works from The Smithsonian Associates Collection," will give us one more chance to prove how well integrated the arts have become in this community.

Gallery guides, demonstrators, and helpers will be needed to make this Artrain visit as successful as the first six.

You can help...

... to get Depot Town ready for the new season of events and activities:

- Be a gallery guide on the Artrain in August
- Demonstrate your art or craft in Artrain's studio car at Heritage Festival
- Decorate a window in one of our shops
- Sell tickets for the Rubber Ducky Race
- Pour beer in the music tent
- March in the St. Patrick's Day parade, build a float, play in the band, dress up in green
- Polish a car for the Street Rod Show
- Stop to pet a dog waiting for folks in the restaurant
- Welcome the antique auto tours in June and September
- Stop by the Farmers' Market on Wednesday, too (sign up for a bead workshop)
- Attend the volunteers' Heritage Fest kick-off part at the Auto History Museum
- Clean out your attic and bring all those old car catalogs down with you!
- Help out in the Ypsilanti PRIDE campaign
- Distribute the new Depot Town brochures to the rest of the world
- Count all the cars on the next freight train that rumbles through the district
- Keep asking about the Reunion date and how you can help (Sidetrack: Linda)
- Pass this month's *Rag* on to a friend who hasn't seen one yet
- Hang out on the sidewalks more and talk to people you don't know
- Attend at least one DTA meeting (3rd Thursday of each month at 6 P.M. at Renewed Interest Antiques)
- Take the kids for a walk across the 'tridge' to both parks in our lovely district
- Watch these pages in the coming months for committee chairs and phone numbers to aid you in directing your talents effectively! You can be a very important part of this neighborhood's success in the coming season of events and hoopla. Welcome!

Pioneer Days: 100 years ago:

- from *The Story of Ypsilanti*, Harvey C. Colburn, 1923

• **Gilbert Park,** on East Michigan Avenue, was once a part of the city commons and was sometimes used as a wood market [MESC and Huron Trade Center parking lot and the private school across the street]. John Gilbert, after whom it is named, contributed much to the development of the East Side. He built stores on the north side of East Cross Street and the factory building on Grove Street, later owned by the National Foundry Company, and was interested in many early industries. His home on Grove Street was long one of the city's beauty spots. Mrs. Gilbert, his wife, is well known in the story of Ypsilanti as President, for years, of the Home Association. The Gilbert Home is the fine old mansion at the corner of Grove and High Streets, with its extensive gardens covering the block and surrounded by a high wall. [Gilbert School, on that same park, stood where the Christian School is. Gilbert Residence, on South Huron Street is named for the same family.]

• **The gift of the Quirk property** on Huron Street [Old Town Hall] made possible the development as a park of the beautiful terraces of the bluff and the field below. Here is the ideal spot for pageantry, and the proximity of the tract to the central schools makes popular its use as an athletic field [Frog Island].

• **The yards of the Michigan Central Railway** adjacent to the station have long been beauty spot of the city. The development was begun and for years directed by B. M. Damon, station agent. Particularly notable were the garden bed designs produced by John Laidlaw, an expert Scottish trained landscape gardener. His unique floral constructions, the Liberty Bell, flanked by cannon and crossed muskets, containing 17,000 plants, the log cabin containing 32,000 plants, the Battleship Maine and the cantilever bridge at Niagara Falls with a locomotive just starting across and the falls beneath, attracted the attention of passing travellers and carried the fame of Ypsilanti the country over. Pictures of some of thee floral creations appeared in *Harper's Weekly*.

"Everybody's coming back, down between the River and the Railroad track!"

Depot Town Association, Inc.

DTA: Firmly rooted in the past - with a clear view forward!

DTA 18 January 1996

Meeting opened at 6 P.M. at the Antique Auto Museum

• **December and November minutes'** approval postponed to February meeting.

• **Correspondence:** Information letter from Antique Engine Club.

Dave French sent a letter to Spirit of Ypsilanti in November proposing DTA take over and operate Rubber Ducky Race at '96 Heritage Festival. No response yet. Resolved that a new letter go to Visitor & Convention Bureau indicating DTA intention to host event. DTA must negotiate with Spirit.

• **$7960.28** in the treasury.

• **Ask for merchant video update** from Sandee French regarding $1400.00 production cost of Depot Town video.

• Carol Clare requested permission to purchase **letterhead stationery and envelopes.** Approved approximately $100.00, 1000 pieces each. She obtained quotes.

• **Electrical bill on Caboose** now $1200.00. DTA owns Caboose but has lease with Ypsilanti Police Department. They are responsible.

• **Farmers' Market Advisory Board** did not meet in December. Defer to February report.

• **DDA:** Same money split as 1995 - 70/30. Open meeting January 23 will see community input into DDA budget for '96.

• **Brochure critiqued.** Have go-ahead to print. Need 100% correction from merchants. D. French will expedite.

• **Caboose to be left leased** to YPD for next year.

• **Bylaws:** No meetings in December. Bylaw suggestion - $25 all-inclusive membership (one person, one vote), $250 lifetime membership, $15 subscription to Rag, only. Revisit goal statement. Suggestion: DTA will take no action, no vote affecting property values or commerce?

• **For Heritage Festival:** WEMU proposes go to RAC jazz and blues in lot next to Riverside Arts Center.

• February 15 **Heritage Festival volunteers' Kick-off** in Antique Auto Museum.

• Dave French has asked EMU's Dr. Word (urban planning) to **re-formulate Depot Town's five-year plan.** Can be used by DTA to encourage City and DDA.

• **St. Pat's Parade:** Gaelic League project can use all volunteers. Posters for parade donated by DTA. Sandy Hoag said last year's were minimal; less than 100.

• **Street Rod Show** in Riverside Park in 1996. Antique Auto Museum is sponsor. May 4 Registration in Freighthouse. May 5 all day in Park. About 250 exhibitors expected Saturday night. 450-500 exhibitors on Sunday. Keep stores open. Event will help celebrate the automobiles' 100th anniversary. DTA donates $200.

• In June and September (18th) **200 cars in a convoy** will have a lunch stop in Depot Town to celebrate automobile's 100th birthday.

• No report on **reunion plans.**

• Chamber of Commerce Ypsilanti **P.R.I.D.E. project** (a city-wide clean-up) will take place May 4 or May 18. Depot Town will schedule its clean-up/planting day with this effort.

• **Artrain/Smithsonian exhibition** will be in Depot Town this August for Heritage Festival. Riverside Arts Center will be involved with personnel to staff the galleries and studio on board.

• **Best Yet Award** to the New Year Jubilee.

• **The Golden Goose** gets the Golden Goose and is retired.

Next meeting: 6 P.M. Thursday, 15 February 1996, at Renewed Interest Antiques.

DTA bylaws changes are still in the works

Still more changes are expected in the revision of the rules under which the neighborhood association runs its activities and business. January's proposals suggested another look at the different membership structures and their benefits, as well as another look at the orignal goal statement for the group.

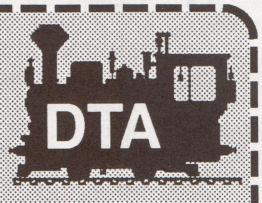
Questions of what actions will affect which members and non-members in the district were brought up at January's DTA meeting, and the discussion continues.

DTA's bylaws were created in 1976 and have been updated twice since then. The current review began in 1995 with proposed changes in November. Copies have been available at DTA monthly meetings and final approval is expected at the February meeting.

All interested parties are invited to particpate.

Please include me among the members of

The Depot Town Association, Inc.



Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

I'm available to help with Association projects. Call me at _____

Annual dues:

- ❑ $25 Regular Voting Member (Property or business owner)
- ❑ $10 Associate Member (Interested in and supportive)
- ❑ $100 Life Member (A great deal if you had joined in 1976!)
- ❑ Please place my name on the monthly mailing list of *The Depot Town Rag*.
- ❑ Don't mail *The Rag*. I'll pick it up in the neighborhood.
- ✂ Clip and send check to "Depot Town Association" P.O. Box 970-235, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197-0804

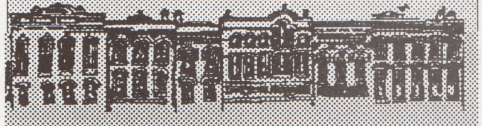
100% Guarantee
Your support makes a difference!

Depot Town Association 1996 officers:

President -
David French
Vice president (president elect) -
Sandy Hoag
Secretary -
Judy Julie
Treasurer -
Carol Clare

The Association meets on the third Thursday of every month at 6 P.M. in Renewed Interest Antiques, 33 East Cross Street. All interested parties are welcome to attend and participate.

Past DTA presidents:
Gerry French
Beverly Shankwiler
Tom Dodd
Carolyn McKeever
Jacob Guter
Paul Fetters
Gary McKeever
Rex Richie
Dave Blackmer
Bill French
Judy Monaghan
Tommy Steele



THE DEPOT TOWN RAG
A publication of the Depot Town Association, Inc., a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation dedicated to preserving the unique character of the neighborhood and to the enhancement of its business climate. -Tom Dodd, editor
The Depot Town Association, Inc.
David French, president
P.O. Box 970-235
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197-0804
The Depot Town Rag
Tom Dodd, editor
1680 Cliffs Landing
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198-7305

"Happy Valentine's Day"

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We have a variety of . . .
Wedding Invitations and Accessories

Development of Freighthouse traced

Digging through local archives, James Thomas Mann, our loyal mole, has uncovered the following snippets from the *ground-breaking* to the *breaking-in* of the Ypsilanti Freighthouse. In one hundred and eighteen years, Ypsilanti's freighthouse has gone from being the freight office for Wells Fargo, Pony Express, and Railway Express, to a twice-a-week Farmers' Market, exposition hall, auction house, and dance hall. We've come a long way -- and have a happy future ahead of us. Folks still sit around the wood stove on a winter morning and sing songs, tell stories, and sip coffee. Not much has really changed at the Freighthouse in Ypsilanti, thank goodness.

Breaking ground...

Ypsilanti Commercial

23 March 1878

The Michigan Central folks are beginning operations on the new freight depot. The material is now being hauled. It will be situated directly back of the Follett House block.

18 May 1978

Work on the new freight depot is progressing rapidly. The foundation is nearly completed and brick-laying will soon be commenced. An Aurora, Illinois man has the contract for building.

22 June 1878

Our new freight house is fast approaching completion. The foundation and walls are strong enough for a six-story building, and without doubt, when done, it will be the most substantial structure in town.

6 July 1878

The new freight house will soon be ready for occupation.

27 July 1878

D.A. Wise got in the first freight into the new freight house — a shipment of apples. It is completed. There ought to be a citizens' jubilee in the new building.*

24 August 1878

RAILROAD IMPROVEMENTS, — Now that the old freight house is out of the way, the main line is to run a straight line from the bridge to the passenger station. There is some talk, also, of erecting two stand pipes to take the place of the round houses now in use.

24 May 1884

A jolly set of workers in the freight office of the M.C.R.R.

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* Indeed, a citizen's jubilee *did* happen, but it didn't take place until 1992, when citizens organized Ypsilanti's first New Year's Jubilee, an alchohol- and drug-free celebration which took place in locations throughout the historic district -- including the historic Freighthouse. For four years, now, the event has hosted two big dance events on New Year's Eve. Welcoming in 1996 were the caribbean band, Nite Flight, and the rock 'n' rollin' Steve Nardella Band. Hundreds of revelers danced and partied in that venerable structure -- and the space was converted right back to the Ypsilanti Farmers' Market by the following Saturday morning.

Every Wednesday and Saturday see the Ypsilanti Farmers' Market in that location to carry on the tradition of community service for that grand, old building.

Only recently, however, has the building's name been shortened to the one-word format.

Breaking in...

Ypsilanti Daily Press

5 January 1917

Claims Wesley aided in theft

Man arrested in connection with entering freight house implicates another

The Michigan Central freight office was broken into and robbed some time during the night and about $40.00 is known to have been taken.

John Maloney, of Chicago was arrested for the theft and has confessed that he was implicated in the affair. He implicates George Wesley, the night man at the office and says that he had a share in the robbery. Half of the amount taken was found in the possession of Maloney. The remainder he claims is on the person of Wesley.

The latter stoutly declares his innocence which he says he will be able to prove. No complaint has been issued against Wesley.

6 January 1917

M.C.R.R. thieves get 65 days' rest

Are sentenced this morning; officers make short work of their case

John Maloney and George Wesley were sentenced this morning to 65 days apiece in the Detroit house of correction, their charge being breaking and entering the Michigan Central freight house, where Wesley is night watchman, Thursday night. Maloney was arrested and charged with the offense, and he incriminated Wesley as his accomplice, declaring that the two went fifty-fifty on the deal. Short work was made of the case, the men being arraigned today and sentenced.

Justice Curtis took the place of Justice Stadtmiller this afternoon, while the latter was in Detroit.

11 January 1917

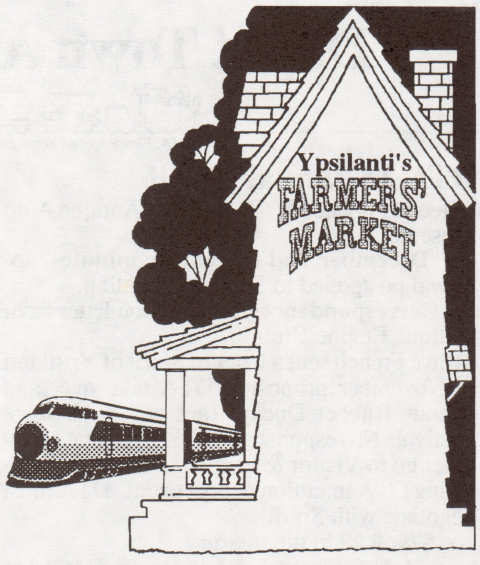
Two sentenced on M.C. theft charge

John Maloney, Chicago and George Wesley, Ypsilanti, get 65 day each in Detroit

John Maloney, of Chicago, and George Wesley, of Ypsilanti, were sentenced to 65 days each in the Detroit house of correction for robbing the safe in the M.C. freight office.

Wesley is night man at the baggage room and part of his duties were at the freight office. He therefore carried a key. Maloney is a tramp. On Thursday night they relieved the safe of slightly in excess of $40. Maloney's attempt to change a large amount of silver into bills caused his arrest on suspicion the same night, and he finally confessed, implicating Wesley, declaring they had agreed to go 50-50.

John Atikinson, Michigan Central detective from Detroit, came Friday and complained against both men and the cases were heard Saturday forenoon before Justice Stadtmiller.



Breaking out - to the rest of the world...

Ypsilanti Daily Press

29 March 1920

Ypsilanti made shipping point

Several Detroit auto companies are now shipping cars form Ypsilanti, the cars being brought here with their own power. Most of those being shipped are for Texas, Oklahoma and other points impossible to reach promptly by overland.

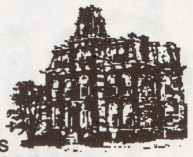
Every day finds some of these makes of automobiles passing through the city for the M.C.R.R. freight house here. As the regular automobile freight cars are kept for direct factory shipments, the freight agent here is compelled to use regular box or open cars. It is sometimes necessary to remove one of the fenders and, if needed, other parts, in order to get them through doors never intended for this kind of freight.

In addition to these Detroit cars, regular shipments of Ace cars from the Apex Motor Co, here are now going forward for Pacific coast points. All these are full car shipments, requiring a load of 10,000 pounds or over to points beyond Chicago, and generally beyond the Mississippi.

Thus far the freight agent here has been able to obtain all the cars needed, but the problem of embargoes now on at some points makes the sending out of freight, in order to avoid congested districts, a rather intricate problem.

Sidetrack's Linda French awaits your input, memorabilia, and addresses for her plan to organize a 'homecoming' for past Depot Towners. Stop in with your memories of days gone by and share them with her. And watch these pages for dates and events.

Gregory L. Dodd
Attorney at Law
- Family Law
- Criminal Law
- Personal Injury
- Probate, Wills, Trusts



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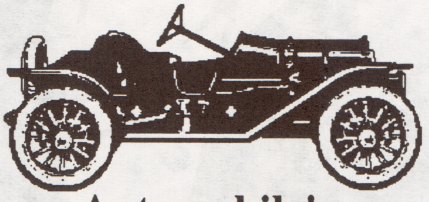


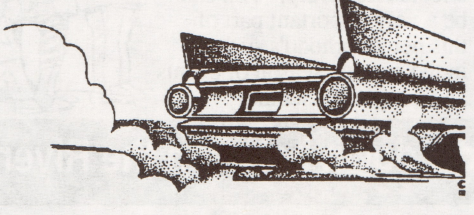
Automobile's 100th anniversary to be celebrated here

Where else would America celebrate such a grand event as the century of the autombile than in Ypsilanti's historic Depot Town? As the train loads of Detroit's products slide by the facades of some of the oldest auto dealerships in the world, Depot Towners are getting ready for a host of heady events in 1996:

- The newly opened Autombile Museum on East Cross Street has become a world center of activity as it celebrates its first year. Heritage Fest volunteers will gather there in February to plan spring, summer, and fall events around this exciting theme.
- Street Rods will converge on Riverside Park, their first year to do so entirely in the City of Ypsilanti. After several successful shows at Ford Lake Park, with their registration event happing around Depot Town's Freighthouse, this year the entire event will be staged in Depot Town. Riverside Park will be overflowing with chrome, fins, and poodle skirts.
- Caravans of antique autos will converge upon the district in both June and September. We're on of their 'important stops' as they crusie Michigan and Depot Town, they say, is the best place to stop for lunch. They're coming by the hundreds and will park all through the district.
- August's Ypsilanti Heritage Festival will name the Autombile's 100th Anniversary as its theme for an event which tradtionally has drawn 300,000 people for the three-day weekend The Heritage Parade, static exhibits, and a continuous traffic jam of hoopla and hyperbole will accompany the celebration.
- Jack Miller's Hudson showroom at the corner of Cross and River Streets continues to be at the center of it all, continuing a fine tradition as it stirs the pot for the future.

It was no accident that General Motors filmed their "Heartbeat of America" commercial in front of Ike's Barbershop a few years ago. This year, folks will be coming to see the action, live, rather than on their television sets.

Wax up your car and come on down to Ypsilanti's historic Depot Town for the fun.



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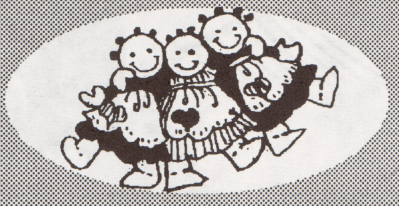

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